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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Ninth session
Geneva, 7-18 February 1994
Item 2 (d) of the provisional agenda

MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

REVIEW OF ADEQUACY OF COMMITMENTS IN ARTICLE 4.2(a) AND (b)

Revised draft conclusions proposed by the Co-Chairs of Working Group I

Proceedings

1. Working Group I held a discussion on sub-item 2(d) (Review of adequacy of commitments in Article 4, para. 2(a) and (b)) at its second meeting, on 7 February 1994. Document A/AC.237/47, prepared by the interim secretariat, was taken as a basis for consideration of the subject.

2. Statements under this sub-item were made by representatives of 22 States, including one speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States.

3. Having discussed texts presented by the Co-Chairs (A/AC.237/WG.I//L.17/Rev.1), Working Group I, at its __ meeting, on __ February, recommended draft conclusions on the sub-item for adoption by the Committee.

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Conclusions

4. On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee at its __th meeting on __ February, agreed upon the following conclusions on sub-item 2(b):

5. Having reviewed document A/AC.237/47 on "Review of adequacy of commitments in Article 4.2(a) and (b)" and recalling that only the Conference of the Parties (COP) is mandated to take final decisions on this matter, the Committee reached the following preliminary conclusions:

(a) The scope of the review would be the adequacy of subparagraphs (a) and (b) of Article 4.2 in their entirety. The primary point of reference for the review would be the ultimate objective of the Convention contained in Article 2 and the progress towards its achievement. The process for the review of the adequacy of commitments would be separate from the review of the implementation of these commitments although the aggregate assessment resulting from the latter review could be relevant to the consideration of possible further action;

(b) The review of the adequacy of commitments would be based in part on a compilation and a synthesis of information on the global situation, including relevant scientific, technical, social and economic information. The IPCC first assessment report (1990), the supplement thereto (1992), and the special report (November 1994) would be key inputs to the review;

(c) The review of the adequacy of commitments, and the consideration of further action, would also take into account a technical analysis and a compilation and synthesis of information from the national communications of Annex I Parties, if available;

(d) The preparations for the review of adequacy of commitments and possible follow-up by

COP 1 should begin now and proceed in a step-by-step manner;

(e) The responsibility for the function of supporting the COP in the review of the adequacy of commitments should rest with the subsidiary bodies.

[6. Referring to current scientific understanding [and to the fact that certain provisions of Article 4.2(a) and (b) refer to the present decade], the view was [broadly] expressed that the commitments in Article 4.2(a) and (b) should be considered inadequate for the long term and that further action may be required to make satisfactory progress toward achieving the objective of the Convention. The need for broader action which would have an impact in the period beyond 2000 was highlighted. Potential difficulties that might arise if the Parties sought to amend the text of Article 4.2(a) and (b) were identified. It was noted that the Committee, in considering further action, should take into account the common but differentiated responsibilities of Parties as well as the differences in Parties' starting points and approaches, economic structures and resource bases, the need to maintain strong and sustainable economic growth, available technologies and other individual circumstances, as well as the need for equitable and appropriate contributions by each Annex I Party to the global effort, beyond the existing commitments in Article 4.2(a) and (b). However, other delegations were of the view that the review of adequacy of commitments by COP 1 should be undertaken in the light of the scientific and technical evidence to be provided by the competent bodies [and in the light of sub-paragraphs 5(b) and (c) above].]

7. In the event the commitments in Article 4.2(a) and (b) are found to be inadequate, the following options for further action were mentioned:

(a) an amendment to the Convention;

(b) a protocol, or protocols, to the Convention to be negotiated before, at or subsequent to COP 1; and

(c) a resolution or decision by Parties at COP 1 that would clarify or interpret the relevant text, provide guidance to the Parties in implementing the Article, or reflect a political statement of will by the Parties.

8. Several subjects for such follow-up to the review of adequacy were mentioned during the discussions.

9. The Committee agreed to continue the discussion on the matter at its next session, with a view to preparing recommendations for appropriate action to be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention.

10. In this context, the interim secretariat was requested to provide further documentation on the issue for consideration by the Committee at its tenth session including:

(a) a compilation and synthesis of interventions on this subject from the present session and of any further comments which member States or other Parties may transmit to the interim secretariat by 30 April 1994. Documents that have been or will be submitted to the interim secretariat may, upon request, be issued by the interim secretariat in the original language only and distributed to all delegations;

(b) a schedule for organization of the process for the review of adequacy, the inputs thereto and any follow-up, for the period between the tenth session and COP 1, taking into account the relevant provisions of the Convention;

(c) elements of a draft outline for a report by the Committee to COP 1 on the review of adequacy.

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